Krentz
to Sprouse
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January 15, 1949

Dear Krentz:

I got your messages and your letter from Jim Flexer for which I am most appreciative.

Events seem to be in the saddle as regards immediate developments in Formosa but I want you to know that the Department is taking a strong stand with a view to preventing a transfer of our naval activities from Tsingtao to Formosa and as soon as that issue is clearly resolved I will return to the ESD charge. All of us in the Department feel strongly that we should seek by political and economic means to prevent the Chinese Communist regime from gaining control of the Island. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have given it as their opinion that it is of the greatest importance that facilities of Formosa be denied a Communist regime. Phil Sprouse will be writing you about this and our other thoughts in due course. Although one can reasonably assume from the obvious preparations that you have reported that the hard core of KMT mainland Chinese who are now in control of the Island do not mean to surrender to the Communists, if the unexpected does happen--and Chinese have a way of compromising--do not be surprised if you get instructions requesting you to persuade the authorities in control of Formosa to disassociate themselves from any arrangement made on the mainland and maintain a separate regime. We would wish, however, to avoid too obvious an association while giving them aid.

I am enclosing an airgram instruction which I have prevented from being sent you both because I thought you might

Kenneth C. Krentz, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Taipei, Formosa.

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By ~~dmf~~, NARS Date 9/4/86

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might misunderstand in present circumstances that it was an inquiry originating in the Research Divisions of the Department and secondly, in the event it imposed too great a burden on you. However, anything that your office can do in reporting on the matters indicated would be appreciated not only by the Research Divisions but by the other concerned Divisions.

With every good wish.

As ever,

W. Walton Butterworth

P.S. - Since communication difficulties are now the order of the day, I would like you to acknowledge this letter upon its receipt and after you have read it and shown it in your discretion to Edgar, you should burn it.